

We claim:

1. A lidstock for a open sample container comprising a layer having a plurality of slits formed therein to form segment intersections that facilitate penetration by an aspiration probe, the segment intersections displaced from the location for penetration by the probe.
2. The lidstock of claim 1 further comprising at least one open generally circular well depending downwardly from an upper surface and a lower surface forming the bottom of each of the wells wherein the segment intersections are formed in the bottom of each well.
3. The lidstock of claim 2 wherein the segment intersections are formed as a capital I-shaped slit.
4. The lidstock of claim 2 adapted for use with an aliquot vessel array containing a plurality of liquid patient samples in a plurality of vessels, the lidstock further comprising at least one open generally circular well depending downwardly from an upper surface and a lower surface forming the bottom of each of the wells wherein the capital I-shaped slit is formed in the bottom of each well.
5. The lidstock of claim 4 wherein the plurality of wells are distributed to mate with the plurality of vessels.
6. The lidstock of claim 3 wherein the I-shaped slit comprises a pair of slit ends distanced apart and connected at their mid-points by a slit cross member.
7. The lidstock of claim 4 wherein the I-shaped slit comprises a pair of slit ends distanced apart and connected at their mid-points by a slit cross member and the mid-point of the slit cross member is located at the center of well.

8. The lidstock of claim 1 wherein the slits are formed fully through the bottom of the well.
9. The lidstock of claim 6 wherein the length of slit ends is generally about 60-75% of the length of cross member.
10. The lidstock of claim 6 wherein the slit cross member extends beyond the intersection with the slit ends.
11. The lidstock of claim 6 wherein the slit ends have equal lengths.
12. The lidstock of claim 2 wherein the segment intersections are formed as a capital V-shaped slit.
13. The lidstock of claim 2 wherein the segment intersections are formed as a capital T-shaped slit.
14. The lidstock of claim 2 wherein the wells have a circular sidewall closed by a bottom, the lidstock further comprising a plurality of "O-ring"-like structures formed on the sidewalls extending outwardly from each of the wells.
15. The lidstock of claim 14 wherein the "O-ring"-like structures formed on the sidewalls of the wells fully encircle the wells.
16. The lidstock of claim 14 wherein the "O-ring"-like structures formed on the sidewalls of the wells are formed proximate the bottom of the wells.